

REASONS

Humbly Offered to the Honourable

House of Commons,

By the LEATHER-DRESSERS and GLOVERS.

SHewing

The Great Grievances that will be if a Duty be laid on Sheep and Lamb-Skins, Drest in Oyl, White-Leather, or Bazels, being the Growth of this Nation.

THAT they are of so low an Intrinsick value, and the charge so great in Dressing, that if a Duty be laid on them it will be better to cut one third in pieces then to Dress them; and besides the Grand Casualties that do attend the Art of Dressing in Oyl, and White-Leather by change of weather and otherways, that sometimes a 100*l*. worth of goods proves to be not worth 30*l*. and all the Art of Man cannot prevent it; and therefore very few of the Oyl Leather-Dressers, in the best of times, ever did good at the Trade, but a great many have been undone by following it.

2. Generally through all the Counties in *England*, the Dresser cuts what he Dresses himself into Gloves, and other uses, so that the burthen will lie on some few Men that do not Cut the same, for the aforesaid uses.

3. The Glovers are many Thousands in Number in the Counties of *England*, City of *London* and Liberties thereof, and generally so Poor (the said Trade being so bad and Gloves so plenty) that near Necessity doth compel them to Sell their Goods daily to the Glove-Sellers, and to take what Prices they will give them, to keep them and their Children and Families at Work to maintain them, or else they must perish for want of Bread.

4. That it is almost impossible to put any Stamp, Seal, or Impression on the said Goods when dried without great damage, for if the said Goods when dried should have any Stamp or Marke put upon them, when they come to be finished they will not be of halfe the value, and unfit for many Uses.

5. Whereas Skins Drest in White and Adon, are to Pay One Penny in a Pound, there is so much Salt used in the Dressing, that none can be dried for five Months time in the Winter, but must lye in the Liquor, and when dried in the Summer, one wet day will make them give, and be so wet as if they had not been dried before, which if the aforesaid Duty be laid will by reason of Dampness and Grease, many times amount to near the value of the Goods, and the Dressers must of necessity leave off their Trades or ruin themselves and Families.

6. As to Skins of Forreigne Growth. If a Duty of Ten Shillings per Hundred should be laid on Kid-Skins, it is the full value of what many Thousands have been sold for since *Christmas* last in the Hair by the Merchant, and the said Goods have paid one Fifth part of the value, as a Duty at the *Custom-House*, and when Drest will not yeild 20*l*. per Hundred.

7. And if a Duty be laid so high on Bucks and Does, and other Forreigen Skins in the Hair and Wooll, it will discourage the Merchants from bringing the said Goods to this Nation, and incourage them to send them into other Countries, by which Manufactory many Hundreds of Poor Families are Employed, and for lack thereof must Perish.

Wherefore we hope and Humbly Pray, that the Reasons aforesaid may prevail with this Honourable House, that no Duty may be Laid on Sheep-Skins or Lamb-Skins, when Drest into the aforesaid Leather.

But if this Honourable House shall proceed to Lay a Duty thereon, according to their present Resolutions; It is then humbly Conceiv'd, that if it be Laid for the first Buyer to Pay, it will be with less Charge Collected, the waltze more considerable to bear it, easier to the Subject, and will bring a greater Revenue to the Crown.

FOR First, The Butchers for the most part bring their Skins with their Meat to Market, and the Felmonger and Glover go Ten Miles to the said Market constantly to bye them.

2. It will be more easie to Collect, a Book being kept in every Market, the Butcher to give in his Name and Number every Market day; and when once the Officers have a List of their Names, it will be easie to find out the Defaulters, because the Meat is for publick sale, and cannot be hid, when the Leather may be cut into pieces for several uses and not Discovered; the Penalty being laid on every Defaulter as this Honourable House shall think Fit.

3. One Third of the Revenue will be lost if a Duty be laid on Leather, because they are of so small value and not able to bear it; that one Third will be cut into Pieces, besides the Grand Casualties and Charge that do attend the Art of Dressing, and the Difficulty in Collecting, that the Officers will have the Benefit, and it will be a Burthen to the Poor Subject, and but little advantage to the Crown.

4. The Skins are one time with another four times the value of the Pelts, Therefore will as easily bear Two Pence Duty as the other will a Haltpeny, if laid on the Skin, every Skin will be of value to pay; it on Leather, one Third will be lost, and besides the Leather, for many uses, is six months in dressing, and often times lyes longer untold, if laid on the Skinit will raise present Money.

It may be Objected that many Gentlemen in the Country, Kill their own Men, and therefore it will be inconvenient for them to send their Skins to Market.

It is thus Answered, If the Skins be dried it will be no dammage to them, for we have many Thousand Imported from Forreign parts in the same nature, and when their conveniency serves they may send them, and besides, they will yeild more by the Duty in a Market, then if a Felmonger or Glover should come to their Houses to bye them, but if these Gentlemen should be excused, their Number would not be one quarter of what will not bear the Duty in Leather.